

## ABSTRACT

A system for inserting a specimen-containing holder into a microscope has a robotic arm, an  
5 end effector, and a control mechanism such as a personal computer. The end effector is  
attached to an end of the robotic arm and includes a gripper apparatus adapted to grip the  
holder. The control means is operably connected to the robotic arm and to the gripper  
apparatus and configured to control the robotic arm and the gripper apparatus such that the  
gripper apparatus grips the holder, and the robotic arm inserts the gripped holder into the  
10 microscope.